



From Japan to the Northwest

News From the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle



Dear friends of the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle,

Our monthly newsletter, "From Japan to the Northwest," is intended to share important and interesting information related to Japan, our region, and the consulate's activities.

You can find [past issues of the newsletter here](#).



No. 1 Tadami River Bridge, Mishima Town, Fukushima

(Credit: Koichi Hayakawa, Flickr.com)

Welcome to the October 2023 edition of From Japan to the Northwest!

In this edition, we will cover Japan's response to the current situation in Israel-Palestine, the latest diplomacy news from the Asia Pacific, and introduce our new Consul General Mr. Makoto Iyori.

As previously mentioned, this newsletter has switched to a **once-a-month publication schedule** to bring you the most important news from Japan and our region. Please be sure to **follow us on social media by clicking the icons below** for more frequent updates on local Japan-related events and the consulate's activities.



1. The Japanese Government's Position and Approach to the Situation in Gaza



FM Kamikawa speaks at the Cairo Summit for Peace on October 21
(Photo: MOFA)

Japan has unequivocally condemned the recent [terror attacks by Hamas](#) and other Palestinian militant groups against Israeli civilians and territory on October 7. These attacks and kidnappings, especially those targeting innocent civilians, are unjustifiable. Japan's top priorities are the immediate release of hostages, securing the safety of civilians, all parties acting in accordance with international law, and calming the situation as soon as possible.

Japan has been urging maximum restraint by all parties to avoid further casualties, and actively engaged in diplomacy to help calm tensions. **Foreign Minister Kamikawa** has engaged in close consultations with key regional players including [Palestine](#), Israel, Arab states, and [Iran](#). She hosted a G7 Foreign Ministers' teleconference on October 17 to discuss the situation, and later attended the [Cairo Summit for Peace hosted by Egypt](#) on October 21. FM Kamikawa also recently spoke separately with [Ambassador Cohen of Israel](#) and [Ambassador Siam of Palestine](#) about the situation, and concurred to continue close communication toward stabilization of the region.

Prime Minister Kishida held bilateral discussions with regional leaders including [Egypt](#), [UAE](#), [Jordan](#), [Qatar](#), and [Saudi Arabia](#). The leaders agreed on close cooperation between their countries to improve the humanitarian situation, enable departures from Gaza, and calm the situation. Japan believes the window for Middle East peace must not close and remains firmly committed to a two-state solution.

To address the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, Japan has pledged [\\$10 million in emergency grant aid](#) to provide food, water, medical care and other urgent needs to the over 1 million people affected. Japan is working closely with the UN, ICRC and other partners to deliver this aid quickly and ensure it reaches those in need.

Going forward, Japan will continue monitoring the situation closely and considering further assistance as needed. It will keep urging all parties to exercise restraint, work toward improving conditions on the ground in Gaza, and seek political solutions based on a two-state framework. Japan will coordinate these efforts closely with the international community.

2. Asia Pacific Diplomacy News

[Recent Surge in Tensions in the South China Sea](#)

Japan expresses serious concern for actions which increase regional tensions including a dangerous action that caused a collision between Chinese and Filipino ships on October 22nd.

Japan believes that the issue concerning the South China Sea is directly related to the peace and stability of the region and is a legitimate concern of the international community including Japan, and thus Japan opposes any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force as well as any actions that increase tensions in the South China Sea.

As stated in the Japan-Philippines Joint Statement in February 2023, the Government of Japan concurs with the Philippines’ long-standing objections to unlawful maritime claims, militarization, coercive activities and threat or use of force in the South China Sea.

Furthermore, Japan highly appreciates the Government of the Philippines for having consistently complied with the Arbitral Tribunal’s award as to the disputes between the Republic of the Philippines and the People’s Republic of China regarding the South China Sea and shown its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea, as stated in the statement by the Foreign Minister of Japan issued on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the issuance of the award.

Japan has consistently advocated upholding the rule of law at sea and re-emphasizes the importance of efforts toward a peaceful resolution of disputes based on international law.

Japan will continue to cooperate with the international community such as ASEAN Member States and the United States to protect free, open, and peaceful seas.

Meeting between Foreign Minister KAMIKAWA and Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN



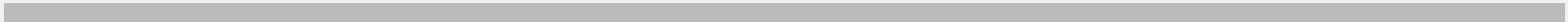
(Photo: MOFA)

On October 24, 2023, Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko met with ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn in Tokyo. The meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in December.

Minister Kamikawa expressed gratitude for the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen ASEAN-Japan ties. She emphasized the importance of aligning Japan's FOIP policy and ASEAN's AOIP outlook. She also highlighted new areas for cooperation like digital transformation, countering infectious diseases, and promoting women's empowerment.

The Secretary-General thanked Japan for its longstanding support of ASEAN centrality and unity. He said the ASEAN Secretariat would continue working closely with Japan to advance connectivity initiatives and other joint projects.

Both sides agreed to jointly develop a new vision for the partnership at the December summit. They want to send a message about ASEAN-Japan cooperation helping to build a free, open, and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.



3. Science & Technology

Visit of IAEA officials and international experts on a mission to review the discharge of ALPS treated water from TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station into the Sea

From 24 to 27 October, the IAEA officials and international experts visited Japan on their first review mission after the start of the discharge of the ALPS treated water from TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS) into the sea.

This IAEA review is based on the Terms of Reference (TOR) on a comprehensive framework for reviewing safety related aspects of handling ALPS treated water at FDNPS signed in July 2021 with the IAEA.

During the mission, the IAEA review mission received updates and explanations from the Government of Japan and TEPCO, concerning the latest situation after the ALPS treated water has been discharged into the sea. Also, the review mission had meetings with the Government of Japan and TEPCO to discuss the issues, considering the individual reviews conducted to date, and confirmed that the discharge has been carried out safely as planned.

On October 25, the IAEA review mission visited the FDNPS site to review the facilities of the discharge of ALPS treated water.

Following this mission, the report is expected to be issued by the IAEA in due course.

The independent review by the IAEA, an international organization with authority in the field of nuclear energy, is extremely important in ensuring reliability and transparency regarding the safety and handling of ALPS treated water and fostering better understanding among the international community. The Government of Japan will continue to work firmly to gain further understanding of ALPS treated water from the international community in close cooperation with the IAEA, which firmly maintains neutrality.

[Reference 1] ALPS treated water

ALPS treated water is water which is processed by devices such as ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) to ensure that the concentration of the radioactive materials other than tritium surely meet the regulatory standards for safety. In addition, ALPS treated water is sufficiently diluted before the discharges into the sea so that radioactive materials including tritium is far below the regulatory standards for safety.

[Reference 2]

The IAEA Task Force includes 11 international experts, serving in a personal capacity, from Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, France, Republic of Korea, the Marshall Islands, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Vietnam.

[Reference 3]

[The first visit for safety review on the Handling of ALPS treated water](#)

[The second visit for safety review on the Handling of ALPS treated water](#)

[The first visit for regulatory review on the Handling of ALPS treated water](#)

[The second visit for regulatory review on the Handling of ALPS treated water](#)

[The visit for comprehensive review on the Handling of ALPS treated water](#)

4. Japan-U.S. Business/Economic Affairs

Foreign Minister Kamikawa's Attendance at the Official Dinner of the 60th Japan-U.S. Business Conference



(Photo: MOFA)

On October 3, Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, attended the official dinner of the 60th Japan-U.S. Business Conference and gave an address as a guest speaker.
A summary of her remarks are as follows:

Japan has a responsible role to play in leading the international community that faces a turning point in history, and I will strive for diplomacy that will be supported by the people of Japan and its ally.
The United States is an indispensable partner for Japan to promote Japan's diplomacy in such a manner and it is essential to reinforce business relations between Japanese and U.S. companies. The Government of Japan has been conducting initiatives to strengthen Japan-U.S. relations from the grassroots level with the aim to raise awareness of the contributions made by Japanese companies in American society.
Strong economic ties between Japan and the United States are the foundation for sustainable growth in the Indo-Pacific, a driver of the world's growth and vitality. Japan and the U.S. will play a responsible role in the economic order of the region.

In response to Minister Kamikawa's remarks, Mr. Douglas Peterson, Chairman of the U.S.-Japan Business Council, stated that he welcomes the Minister's appointment and looks forward to the Government of Japan's continued support toward further cooperation between the private companies of Japan and the U.S. Mentioning that this year marked the 60th anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Business Conference, Mr. Peterson expressed his hope that the next anniversary in 60 years would be celebrated in the same way.

(Reference) The Japan-U.S. Business Conference

The Japan-U.S. Business Conference was established in 1961 to promote mutual understanding through dialogue between Japanese and U.S. private sectors. The 60th Japan-U.S. Business Conference is held from October 3 to 4 in Tokyo.

Meeting between Foreign Minister Kamikawa and The Honorable Ambassador Tai, United States Trade Representative



(Photo: MOFA)

On October 29, FM Kamikawa held a meeting with the Honorable Ambassador Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative. The overview of the meeting is as follows:

Minister Kamikawa welcomed Ambassador Tai's visit to Japan and stated that the Ministers had a frank exchange of views during the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Osaka-Sakain anticipation of the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) next year. She also expressed her desire to work closely with Ambassador Tai on both the bilateral and multilateral fronts to strengthen the free and fair economic order. In response, Ambassador Tai stated that she was pleased to see women playing an active role in the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting, as evidenced by the presence of six women in the session of "Free and Fair Trade-towards MC13" this morning, and that she would like to continue to develop close cooperation through the G7. Both sides also concurred to continue the bilateral dialogue on trade matters through the Japan-U.S. Partnership on Trade, and exchanged views on issues such as the WTO, economic security, and ALPS treated water.

Minister Kamikawa also noted the progress of negotiations on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) and conveyed Japan's view on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in consideration of the strategic perspective on the Indo-Pacific economic order. Ambassador Tai expressed her gratitude for Japan's contribution to IPEF and expressed her hope for continued cooperation with Japan as an important partner in the framework.

Both sides concurred to work closely together to make next year's OECD Ministerial Council Meeting successful, which will be chaired by Japan.

5. Consulate News & Activities

IYORI Makoto assumes post as Consul General of Japan in Seattle



On October 24, 2023, Mr. IYORI Makoto arrived in Seattle to assume the post of Consul General of Japan in Seattle.

Consul General Iyori joined the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990. After serving as Managing Director, General Affairs Department, Japan Foundation, he was appointed as Consul General of Japan in Seattle in September 2023. Past assignments include overseas postings in Canada, Indonesia, and the Philippines. He has an extensive career and experience in the field of relations with the Asia-Pacific Region at MOFA.

Consul General IYORI's Arrival Greeting:

My name is Makoto IYORI, the newly appointed Consul-General of Japan in Seattle.

I served in Washington, D.C. from 2019 to 2020, and this is my second posting in the USA. I am incredibly excited and delighted to serve in a place like Seattle, which has such a long, deep, and diverse friendship with Japan. I pledge to do my best to deepen and strengthen this bond.

Currently, there are approximately 17,000 Japanese citizens residing in the States of Washington, Montana, and Northern Idaho. The Consulate-General of Japan will continue to provide essential information and support to ensure their safety and peace of mind.

This region has a history of over 100 years of Japanese immigration. Currently, more than 90,000 Japanese Americans live in this region, and many of them play important roles in society. By cherishing the historical bonds between Japan and Japanese American society, I look forward to collaborating with those of Japanese descent to further relations between both countries.

The greater Seattle area is one of the fastest-growing metropolitan regions in the US. The region has become a hub for the aerospace industry. In recent years, it has contributed to the innovation of IT (Information Technology) and other advanced industries, attracting researchers and technical talent from around the world and becoming a global leader in the fields of artificial intelligence and cloud computing. We will continue to support Japanese companies in further strengthening economic relations.

We also aim to introduce the attractions and culture of Japan to the local people and promote grassroots exchange to strengthen our relations.

I would appreciate your continued guidance and cooperation and look forward to working with all of you.

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A Japanese version of Consul General Iyori's Arrival Greeting can also be found at the link below.

伊従新総領事からの着任挨拶は以下のリンクから。

<https://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp/.../CGIyoriGreetin...>

Recent Events



Deputy Consul General Sumi had a busy month serving as Acting Consul General after Consul General Inagaki's departure. Read all about the recent local events he attended on our Facebook page!

- [Generative AI & Traditions 2023 \(cohosted by the Consulate, the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington, and Japan Business Association of Seattle\)](#)
- [Bellevue High School's 100th anniversary celebration and Japanese American Student Recognition Event](#)
- [45th anniversary celebration of the Seattle Chapter of the Beikoku Shodo Kenkyukai](#)
- [Posthumous induction of legendary Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto to the Asian Hall of Fame](#)

2024 JET Program Applications Now Open!



Have you ever dreamed of living and working in Japan? Now's your chance: apply for the 2024 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program! Application deadline is Friday, November 17th.

Visit <https://jetprogramusa.org> for more information. Questions? Email us at jet@se.mofa.go.jp.

Want to learn more about the program and get some application tips? Sign up for one of our virtual info sessions (pre-registration required): <https://forms.office.com/r/HND3qkt5bx>

Wednesday, October 25, Noon – 1:30 p.m. (PDT)

Friday, November 3, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. (PDT)

Thursday, November 9, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. (PST)

That's it for this issue of "From Japan to the Northwest."

Thank you for reading. Until next month!

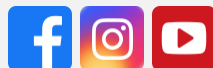
Sincerely,
Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

View [past issues of "From Japan to the Northwest" here](#).

Visit the consulate's homepage here:

- [Homepage \(English · 英語\)](#)
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